

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 296482

71

ORIGIN NEA-10

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI IMMEDIATE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: TGEN, USINJC, IN

SUBJECT: USINJC: SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY SUBCOMMISSION -
REVIEW AND PROJECTIONS

REF: STATE 285072

1. FOLLOWING REPRESENTS SUBSTANCE OF POINTS WE PROPOSE TO
MAKE CONCERNING S AND T ACTIVITIES DURING ATHERTON/SINGH
REVIEW OF JOINT COMMISSION WHICH IS NOW SCHEDULED FOR MON-
DAY, DECEMBER 13.

2. THE U.S. REMAINS COMMITTED TO THE CONCEPT OF COOPERA-
TION WITH INDIA IN THE S AND T FIELD AND BELIEVES THAT THE
SUBCOMMISSION HAS ALREADY PERFORMED A USEFUL ROLE IN IDENTI-
FYING PRIORITY AREAS FOR FUTURE RESEARCH. MOREOVER, AS
INTENDED BY THE SUBCOMMISSION, AND AS THE RECENT SPECIALIZED
WORKSHOPS CONTINUE TO DEMONSTRATE, THE EVOLVING RELATION-
SHIP UNDER SUBCOMMISSION AUSPICES IS ONE OF MUTUAL BENEFIT
AND EQUAL PARTICIPATION. WE BELIEVE THAT OUR COMMITMENT IS
SHARED BY THE GOI, WHICH HAS FREQUENTLY EXPRESSED ITS CON-
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PAGE 02 STATE 296482

VICTION IN THE BENEFITS TO BE DERIVED FROM S AND T COOPERA-

TION. WE BELIEVE THAT THE INDIAN DECISION TO ESTABLISH A CLEARANCE REVIEW SYSTEM TO COORDINATE DECISIONS ON INDIVIDUAL PROJECT PROPOSALS COMPLEMENTS THE SUBCOMMISSION

UMBRELLA OVER SHARED RESEARCH AND, OVER THE LONG TERM, SHOULD HELP IN SMOOTHING OUT POTENTIAL MISUNDERSTANDINGS.

3. IN SHORT, THE NECESSARY PROCEDURES FOR COLLABORATION HAVE EVOLVED BUT WE MUST EXPRESS OUR DISAPPOINTMENT AT THE LACK OF PROGRESS IN MOVING TO THE ACTUAL RESEARCH PHASE. THERE EXISTS A BACKLOG OF PENDING PROPOSALS WHICH ARE AT THE FINAL PREPARATION STAGE AND LACK ONLY FINAL GOI CLEARANCE. TO OUR KNOWLEDGE, ONLY ONE PROJECT HAS BEEN APPROVED UNDER THE NEW PROCEDURES (NEW DELHI 16108). THIS LACK OF PROGRESS WILL DISCOURAGE THE PLANNING AND SUBMISSION OF NEW PROPOSALS AND IF SUSTAINED THREATENS TO ARREST THE SUBCOMMISSION'S MOMENTUM. THE ABSENCE OF A BREAKTHROUGH ON THIS PROBLEM WILL CAST A REAL CLOUD OVER THE MARCH MEETING OF THE SUBCOMMISSION PRINCIPALS.

4. FYI - WE THINK IT USEFUL TO FOCUS PRINCIPALLY ON THE NON-CLEARANCE ISSUE IN THE MEETING WITH SINGH BECAUSE IT IS CLEAR-CUT AND ITS SOLUTION LIES WITH THE GOI. WITHOUT A BREAKTHROUGH ON THE BACKLOG OF PROPOSALS IN THE RELATIVELY NEAR FUTURE IT WILL BECOME INCREASINGLY DIFFICULT TO SUSTAIN U.S. AGENCY INTEREST IN THE SUBCOMMISSION. END FYI.

5. WE ARE INTERESTED IN RECEIVING A DETAILED UPDATE OF THE PRESENT SITUATION, NUMBER OF PROJECTS PENDING AND WHAT CATEGORIES, AS WELL AS WORD IF ANY FURTHER PROJECTS HAVE BEEN APPROVED. WE WOULD ALSO APPRECIATE EMBASSY VIEWS ON THE LINE ABOVE AND ON ANY OTHER ISSUES YOU BELIEVE COULD BE PROFITABLY RAISED ON THE 13TH. REQUEST YOUR RESPONSE BY OUR COB THURSDAY, DECEMBER 9. KISSINGER

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